Member's proposal would be equally convenient for purposes of civil jurisdiction. He deplored that the question had been pending final decision for the last 30 years and prayed that the same be soon settled in conformity with the opinion of the majority of the people of the locality as represented by him.

Dewan's reply.—Government have not come to any final decision in regard to the shifting of the Court. The Member's representation will be carefully considered.

43. Transfer of Civil Decrees direct from Devicolam to British India.

Mr. G. W. Cole (Member, The Kannan Devan Planters' Association) requested that power be given to the Devicolam District Munsiff's Court to transfer civil decrees direct to British Indian Courts instead of through the Parur District Court as at present. The existing provision of law caused inordinate delays which frequently enabled a debtor to remove his funds and property beyond the jurisdiction of the court to which the decree was transferred, thereby defeating the ends of justice. The Member pointed out that, if power was given to the Devicolam Commissioner to transfer decrees direct, it would be of considerable help to all employees of labour under its jurisdiction.

Dewan's reply —I quite appreciate the difficulties in your having to go to Parur. The High Court have not sent their reply in regard to this matter. We have to consult the British Government as to whether the British Courts will accept the decrees forwarded by a Munsiff of this State and take action thereon. First of all we have to find out whether there is any objection from our High Court, and, if they have no objection, we shall have to address the British Government in the matter. I shall take the necessary action, and let you know the result in due course.

IV. PRODUCTION, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

44. Disabilities of the ryots of Travancore.

Mr. K. G. Thomas (Member, Nominated) began by expressing satisfaction at the Dewan giving immediate replies to the representations of the members of the Assembly, whether those replies were favourable or otherwise. He requested to convey to His Highness the Maha Raja the sentiments of loyalty and thankfulness of the ryots of Central Travancore for the innumerable benefits they had been enjoying at the hands of His Highness' Government.. Out of the total cultivable area of 30 lakhs of acres of land in this State only 21 lakhs were under actual cultivation, and out of this 15 lakhs of acres were cultivated with grain and other food crops. Calculating on that basis, the average earning of an agricultural labourer was only 10 *cash* per day, while including rubber and sugarcane cultivation it came to one *chackram* per head. The average annual earning per head in Travancore came to only Rs. 12-12 as. and the people had to meet all their expenses from this very small amount. The Member, therefore, requested Government to do everything in their power to increase the earning capacity of the people. He admitted that the Agricultural Department was rendering every help to the ryots, but it was not encouraged by Government adequately. Coming to the cultivation of cocoanut, he said that 25 lakhs of trees were affected by pests. The disease which originated some years ago had now spread over 18 taluks. It, therefore, behoved Government to take special efforts to root out the disease.

The Member then referred to the revised Agricultural Loans Rules and observed that the rate of interest was high and should be reduced to the original rate of 4 per cent. The condition of Mysore was quite different and it should not be taken as a basis of comparison. He complained that the amount of Rs. 200 allowed to be given on personal security was too small to serve any useful purpose and suggested that it should be raised to at least Rs. 500. Among the other suggestions of the Member were the following, viz.,

(1) that a sum of 5 lakhs of rupees be set apart every year for the grant of agricultural loans;

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